Turning now to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, as indicated above, the specification has been amended to state that the disclosed cuff can be configured to receive a portion of the body and to engage both an interior and an exterior segment of the body. As this feature was recited in the originally filed claims, no new matter has been added by so amending the specification. Further, in response to the § 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 16 and 17, claim 16 has been amended to recite that the plurality of through holes extend through a length of the shoe device. As such, it is believed that the requirements of § 112 have been satisfied.

In the May 2002 Office action, claims 1-13 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shull et al. (U.S. 6,143,022). Additionally, claim 19 was rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Herweck et al. (U.S. 6,010,529) and claim 20 was rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmitt (U.S. 5,443,499). Furthermore, claims 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shull et al. in view of Schmitt and Duffy et al. (U.S. 6,086,611) and claim 14 was rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shull et al. in view of Schmitt et al. Each of the pending independent claims, namely claims 1, 19 and 20, have been amended to recite a medical device including a shoe device that includes a spacing structure that maintains struts in a spaced relationship. It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, recite a medical device including such a spacing structure. In particular, Schmitt discloses gluing together converging struts rather than a medical device including a spacing structure that maintains struts in a spaced relationship. Moreover, the connectors 9 of Duffy et al. also do not

include the recited spacing structure. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of pending claims 1-23 define patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to respond to each rejection set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the claims be allowed and the application passed to issue.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims. The attached page is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**".

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: _____
John V. Hanley, Reg. No. 38,171

JVH:kst
Enclosures
Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, California 90045
Tel: (310) 824-5555; Fax: (310) 824-9696
251660.1

Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 9, line 15, please substitute the following paragraph.

In one embodiment, the cuff 12 is made from flexible materials such as the materials used for conventional woven grafts. That is, it has been found that cuffs made from PTFE or PE or equivalent materials are acceptable for providing the cuff with the desired profile. The cuff 12 can be attached to the body 20 of the medical device 10 by employing sutures 40, though any structures or means for attaching the cuff 12 to a medical device 10 is acceptable. Moreover, the cuff 12 can be configured to receive a portion of the body 20 and to engage both an interior and an exterior segment of the body.

At page 10, line 5, please substitute the following paragraph.

In an alternative embodiment (see FIGS. [6]5 and [7]6), it is contemplated that the cuff 50 of the present invention lack an annular space and rather, defines a simple sleeve structure. Again, the cuff 50 can be formed from conventional graft materials and can be sutured or otherwise affixed 52 to ends 24 of the body 20 of a medical device 10. The cuff 50 can be attached to an internal bore 54 of the body 20 to provide the medical device 10 with a profile well-suited for receiving other medical devices. The ends 24 of the medical device 10 are then left to engage the tissue into which the medical device 10 is implanted and to provide a robust anchor thereto. It is also contemplated that the cuff 50 can be affixed to an external

circumference of the body 20 of the medical device 10 (not shown) to provide the device with atraumatic ends where there is less of a concern for obstruction with other devices inserted through the medical device 10.

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A medical device, comprising:

a body portion having a first end portion and a second end portion and being defined by a structure including a plurality of pairs of converging struts;[+]

a first cuff, the first cuff being attached to the first end portion;

a second cuff, the second cuff being attached to the second end portion;

at least one shoe device, the shoe being configured at one pair of converging struts and including a spacing structure that maintains the struts in a spaced relationship; and

wherein the first and second cuffs and the shoe device provide the medical device with atraumatic surfaces and a streamlined profile.

16. (Amended) The device of claim 15, wherein the plurality of through holes extend through a length of the shoe device.

19. (Amended) A medical device, comprising:

a body portion having a first end portion and a second end portion and being defined by a structure including a plurality of pairs of converging struts;

a first cuff, the first cuff being attached to the first end portion; [and]

a second cuff, the second cuff being attached to the second end portion; and

at least one shoe device, the shoe device being configured at one pair of converging struts and including a spacing structure that maintains the struts in a spaced relationship;

wherein the first and second cuffs provide the medical device with atraumatic surfaces and a streamlined profile.

20. (Amended) A medical device, comprising:

a body portion having a first end portion and a second end portion and being defined by a structure including a plurality of pairs of converging struts; and

at least one shoe device, the shoe device being configured at one pair of converging struts and including a spacing structure that maintains the struts in a spaced relationship;

wherein the shoe device provides the medical device with atraumatic surfaces and structural integrity.

FIG. 1

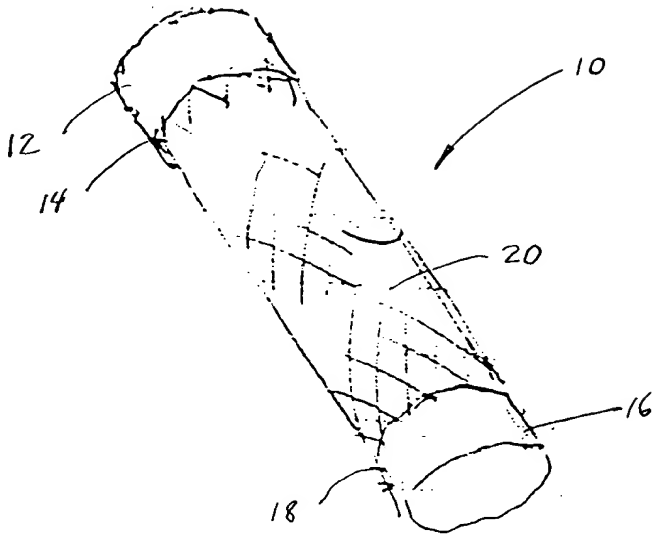

FIG. 2

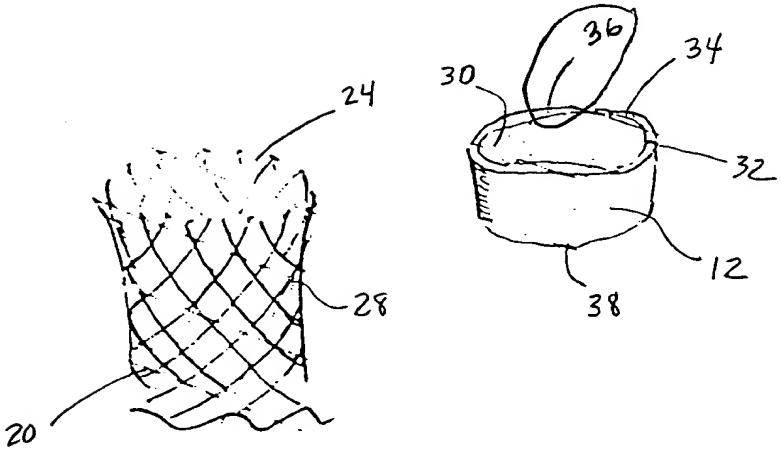

FIG. 3

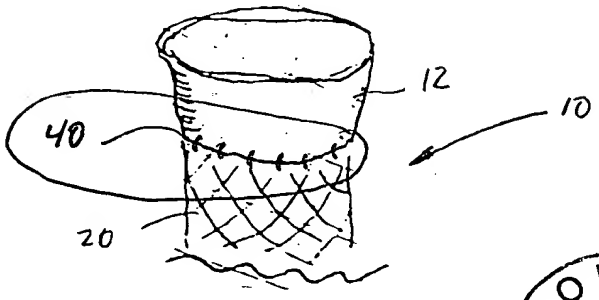

FIG. 7

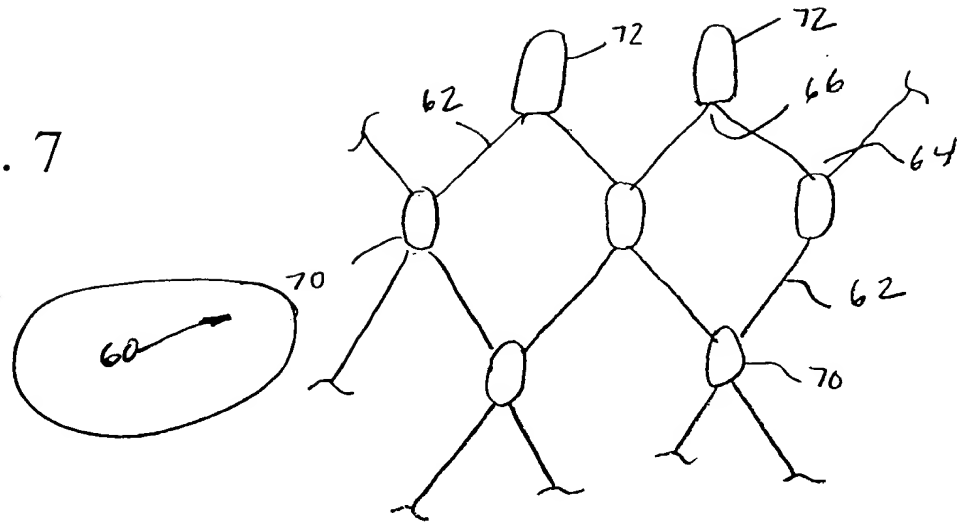

FIG. 8

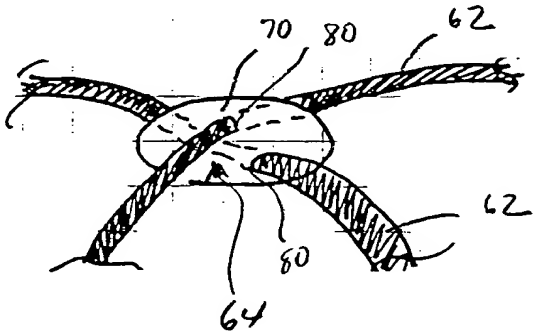

FIG. 9